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A New & Accurate Map of Asia . . . [Shows Mythical De Gama's Land!]

Stock#: 30577
Map Maker: Bowen
Date: 1744
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 17 x 14 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Decorative map of the continent of Asia, hand colored by countries.

Includes a mythical De Gama's Land, east of Yesso and Japan, with a note that the land was reportedly discovered by Juan de Gama in a voyage from China to New Spain. De Gama land seems to be a part of the pre-history of the Northeast Coast of America, which would soon be laid to rest by the voyages of Bering, Cook and others in the region. In the early 17th century rumors began to circulate that a Spanish ship, traveling east from the Philippines to Mexico, had been blown off course and discovered a land in the north rich in gold and silver as all unreachable lands were. In later versions, the ship became Portuguese with a captain named Juan de Gama. In some geographer's minds, de Gama's land and Ezo were one and the same. In others, Ezo was a part of the Asian mainland and de Gama's land was a separate land in the North Pacific.

In the 1730s and 1740s, De Gama Land was a source of intellectual debate, not as to its existence, but its exact location, with such important explorers as De L'Isle, de la Croyere and Chiricow each opining as to its location.

Decorative cartouche and compass rose.

Detailed Condition:

Drawer Ref: